

What is claimed is:

5 1. A retaining wall block having parallel top and bottom faces, a front face, a rear face, first and second side wall faces and a vertical plane of symmetry extending between the front and rear faces, the block comprising:

a body portion including the front face,

a head portion including the rear face,

10 a neck portion connecting the body portion and the head portion, the body, head and neck portions each extending between the top and bottom faces and between the first and second side wall faces,

an opening extending through the neck portion from the top face to the bottom face, the opening dividing the neck portion into first and second neck wall members extending rearwardly from the body portion to the head portion,

15 first and second pin holes each disposed in the body portion and opening onto the top face for receiving a pin with a free end of the pin protruding beyond the top face,

20 first and second pin receiving cavities each disposed in the body portion and opening onto the bottom face for receiving the free end of a pin received in a pin hole of an adjacent block disposed therebeneath so as to interlock the blocks with a predetermined setback,

25 wherein the neck wall members, the pin holes and the pin receiving cavities are positioned such that a first plane extending parallel to the plane of symmetry passes through the first pin receiving cavity, the first pin hole and the first neck wall member and a second plane extending parallel to the plane of symmetry passes through the second pin receiving cavity, the second pin hole and the second neck wall member.

30 2. The retaining wall block of claim 1 wherein the first and second neck wall members are each positioned so as to substantially vertically align, in use, with a the neck wall member of a vertically adjacent block in an adjacent course of a wall made from a plurality of courses of the blocks laid in a running bond pattern.

3. The retaining wall block of claim 1 wherein the first and second planes are located approximately midway between the plane of symmetry and laterally outermost points of the first and second side wall faces, respectively.

5 4. The retaining wall block of claim 1 wherein the first and second pin receiving cavities each have a rear wall extending generally perpendicularly to the plane of symmetry.

Sub A7
10 ~~5. The retaining wall block of claim 1 wherein the block further comprises third and fourth pin holes each disposed in the body portion and opening onto the top face for receiving a pin with a free end of the pin protruding beyond the top face, the third and fourth pin holes being disposed on the first and second planes forward of the first and second pin holes so as to provide a reduced or zero predetermined setback.~~

15 6. The retaining wall block of claim 1 wherein the side wall faces generally taper from the front face to the rear face.

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20 7. The retaining wall block of claim 1 wherein the head portion has first and second ears extending laterally beyond the first and second neck wall members, respectively, the first and second ears each being provided with a notch to enable the ears to be knocked off the head portion.

Sub B7
25 ~~8. A retaining wall formed of a plurality of courses of retaining wall blocks according to claim 1 laid in a running bond pattern, blocks of a given course each having a pair of pins each projecting beyond the top surface of the block and engaging the pin receiving cavity of a vertically adjacent the block in the next lowermost course, a continuous cavity being defined by each the opening of vertically aligned blocks in every second course of the blocks communicating with side voids of vertically adjacent blocks in each alternate course, the side voids of a block being defined between the head and body portions either~~
30 ~~side of the neck portion of the block.~~

9. The retaining wall of claim 8 wherein the retaining wall is straight.

10. The retaining wall of claim 8 wherein the retaining wall is curved.

5 11. The retaining wall of claim 8 wherein the retaining wall is serpentine.

Sub A4
12. ~~The retaining wall of claim 8 wherein the retaining wall is reinforced with rebar and grouting, a length of the rebar passing through each of at least one of the cavities, each length of the rebar being secured in the respective the cavity with the grout.~~

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13. The retaining wall of claim 8 wherein the retaining wall incorporates at least one post each extending into a the continuous cavity and protruding from the top course, each of the at least one post being secured in the respective the cavity with grout.

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14. The retaining wall of claim 8 wherein the retaining wall incorporates a geogrid tie-back disposed between two adjacent the courses, the geogrid tie-back being secured with the pins passing through apertures thereof.

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15. The retaining wall of claim 9 wherein the retaining wall incorporates a pilaster formed of a column of the blocks set forward from the remainder of the wall.

Sub A4
12. ~~The retaining wall of claim 8 wherein the retaining wall is reinforced with rebar and grouting, a length of the rebar passing through each of at least one of the cavities, each length of the rebar being secured in the respective the cavity with the grout.~~